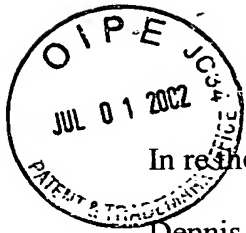


PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#3/A



In re the Application of

Dennis N. STAMIREs et al.

Group Art Unit: 1754

Application No.: 09/246,691

Examiner: C. Nguyen

Filed: February 9, 1999

Docket No.: WPB 40864B

For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING ANIONIC CLAY
USING TWO TYPES OF ALUMINA COMPOUNDS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

RECEIVED
JUL 31 2002
TC 1700

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the original Abstract with the substitute Abstract attached hereto on a separate page.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, lines 14-20, delete current paragraph and insert therefor:

In hydrotalcite-like anionic clays the brucite-like main layers are built up of octahedral alternating with interlayers in which water molecules and anions, more particularly carbonate ions, are distributed. The interlayers may contain anions such as NO_3^- , OH^- , Cl^- , Br^- , I^- , SO_4^{2-} , SiO_3^{2-} , CrO_4^{2-} , BO_3^{2-} , MnO_4^- , HGao_3^{2-} , HVO_4^{2-} , ClO_4^- , BO_3^{2-} , pillaring anions such as

a/